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TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

PROPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY FOR THE REALIZATION OF A PILOT PROJECT OF A NETWORK OF INSTITUTIONS, BODIES AND EXPERTS ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Note by the secretariat

1. In accordance with decision 12/COP.4, the Italian authorities were invited to continue the work undertaken on traditional knowledge in collaboration with other interested institutions, and to present a proposal for the realization of a pilot project to create a network of institutions, bodies and experts on traditional knowledge. Based on the above decision, the proposal should include scientific representatives of all interested Parties, a description of the role of interested members of the network, a detailed programme of work, and the expected cost for its implementation. The proposal[1] is contained in an annex to this document.

2. By this same decision, the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology was requested at its inter-sessional meeting to review the project, to forward it to the regional groups, and present it for consideration at the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in order to share results and expand opportunities for partnerships.

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[1] Reproduced without formal editing by the UNCCD secretariat.

Annex

ITKnet- Innovative Traditional Knowledge Network

I. BACKGROUND

The present project proposal complies with the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Panel on Traditional Knowledge held in Matera, Italy, in May 2000 as well as with decision 12/COP.4.

II. GENERAL GOAL

The project aims at setting up a network of institutions, bodies and experts on traditional knowledge (TK), hereinafter referred to as ITKnet (Innovative Traditional Knowledge Network). Such a global network will be implemented in successive steps.

The goal will be reached by accomplishing a pilot project addressed to Mediterranean countries and opened to the interested parties (Chile, China, India and Iran have already shown their interest).

III. THE PROJECT RELIES ON:

- cognitive purposes
- operative actions

The cognitive purposes are:

1. To draw up an inventory on TK of pilot countries and their innovative use
2. To study the possibilities to disseminate TK
3. To study the parameters and the indicators on the loss of TK as well as to analyse the possible ways to fight against such a loss
4. To select the successful practices and to evaluate a system of incentives to implement and disseminate the Traditional Knowledge and the Innovative Technology (hereinafter referred to as TKIT) within the framework of traditional know-how
5. To examine any methods for the protection of rights on TK that subjects, communities, disseminators and innovators of traditional techniques can implement
6. To evaluate the promotion of traditional technologies by the focal points of each country and give indications to adopt nation-wide safeguard and dissemination strategies

The operative actions include:

1. The setting up of a pilot network in order to encourage and actively support partnership building in addition to the documentation and dissemination of traditional and local knowledge, know-how and practices
2. The establishment of the conditions for the implementation of a network of experts and institutions between the Parties of the Convention that will draw up the inventory on TKIT, disseminate and adopt them; the Mediterranean area will be a model for other regions

3. The sharing of methods of research, study and classification of TKIT; the training of the personnel of different countries to make inventories, to disseminate the TKIT, and their innovative use to fight against desertification
4. The implementation of Internet stations wherever necessary in order to facilitate communications and to strengthen networking and exchanges among various organizations and regions
5. The creation of a public multilingual internet database and companion CD ROM entitled Traditional Knowledge & Its Innovative Use to distribute among experts from drought and/or desertification affected countries in the Mediterranean and encourage the transfer of appropriate and environmentally-sound technologies and know-how while promoting the exchange of experiences
6. The setting out of eligibility criteria for network members as well as their rights and duties. The setting out of criteria to establish any operative structure
7. The setting out of the implementation phases of the global network

IV. CHARACTERISTICS AND WORKING OF THE NETWORK

The network will be made up of institutions, research centres, bodies, focal points of Mediterranean countries. Consequently, all organizations, institutions and experts will be able to collaborate, to exchange information and interact in a synergetic way. A web multimedia database will enable the network to disseminate and share information, thus taking a bottom-up approach to the study of TK.

Several dedicated levels of access to institutions, research centres, experts, focal points and users will be available. Multilingual information will be completed with comprehensible graphs.

According to the different access levels new information and remarks could be entered and automatically forwarded to experts, discussion forums, bodies, focal points as well as to the interested countries.

Some research centres will focus on several topics by filtering, processing and validating the information. The number and the entity of these research centres could change according to the needs and proposals.

The database does not depend on a single centralized pole but on a series of nodes that will apply for each topic.

The research centres that have already been involved in the initiative in a preliminary phase are the following:

- IPOGEA - Traditional Knowledge Centre - Matera, Italy -
- Institute of Water Resources Management - Karlsruhe University, Germany
- Arid Regions Institute(Institut des Regions Arides) - Medenine, Tunisia,
- Minia University, Egypt
- Centro de Investigación , Formación y Esperimentación sobre Arquitectura de Tierra, Energía renovables, Desarrollo sostenibile y Tranferencia Tecnológica a Paises en via de desarrollo - Madrid, Spain
- The Bodies: UNESCO, FAO, UNEP

In the preliminary phase the focal points of the Parties will select other research centres.

The information technology system supporting ITKnet shall:

1) Be accessible on the Internet by means of common WWW browsers.
2) Deal with multilingual information. The documents will be translated outside the system but after choosing the language, the interface of the user and the documents will share the same language.
3) Be updated directly on-line by privileged accesses (editors) controlled by the username and the password. The user can choose not to make the changes immediately available since they could be subject to the check and validation by authorized users and nodes (gatekeepers) guaranteeing the quality of data in the relative specialization fields.
4) Provide community services such as conferences, mailing lists and subscriptions to specific areas of the system to foster the collaboration and the synergy between the users and the bodies involved.
5) Notify via email one or more users (supervisors) and the nodes monitoring the system evolution of the changes saved.
6) Handle multimedia information supporting and completing the main information on local and traditional knowledge such as glossaries, pictures, bibliographies etc. Editors and gatekeepers will be able to link such information in order to complete the main information forms using a simple grammar to be consulted upon request by means of hypertexts.
7) Manage the on-line drawing up of presentations (slide shows) by means of pictures and other resources of the system.
8) Enable the distribution of the documents extracted from the system on multi-platform CD-ROM (MacIntosh and Windows).
9) Handle the collection of profiles (curricula vitae and description of the specialization fields) regarding experts, research centres, bodies, institutions according to the topics dealt with by ITKnet so that the users interested can set up a collaboration relationship with them.
10) Keep the graphs (banners) and customized references of the information received by each individual or body.
11) Easily fit the needs of ITKnet that could change according to the evolution of the activity.

The system could be localized anywhere on the Internet in compliance with cost optimization and access speed.

Therefore, it shall be possible to remotely administrate the server from all the qualified nodes of the network. Therefore, such nodes will be equipped with a quick Internet access, at least with an ISDN line, preferably with an ADSL or higher, according to the availability of these lines within the area.

V. WORK PROGRAM

1st year

GOALS

Cognitive goal: to continue the drawing up of the inventory on TK and their innovative use.
Operative goal: to highlight the physical network of the centres involved.

Activities

1. Census-taking of the main bodies, research centres and institutions dealing with TK.

2. Collaboration with bodies, research centres and institutions dealing with TK.

3. Organization of a workshop on the pilot project involving the countries where the workshop is organized, the focal points, a representative of each regional group, the annexes, the bodies, the research centres and the institutions leading a key role in the initiative.

The workshop will focus on two topics of the project:

a) Analysis of the progress made on cognitive purposes
b) Operative actions to set up the organization structure

As for the former, the following issues will be dealt with:

- The drawing up of an inventory on TK of Pilot Countries and their innovative use;
- The study of the parameters and indicators on the loss of TK and the analysis of the possible ways to fight against such a loss.

Therefore, a form to draw up an inventory on TK will be approved.

As for the latter, the following issues will be dealt with:

- The evaluation of the eligibility criteria of the network members, of their rights and duties as well as the evaluation of the opportunity to set up a body that could take part in the network;
- The evaluation of the needs of each country (training, technical equipment etc.);
- The evaluation of the successive phases to implement the global network.

Therefore, the information on the needs of each country to implement the capabilities of participation in the network will be collected.

4. Organization of a stage, training courses and thematic workshops in the countries needing to implement their own capabilities.

5. Implementation of nodes of a dedicated network on TKIT at the institutions of Mediterranean countries

6. Creation of Internet stations wherever necessary and formulation of a first hypothesis of qualification of Database nodes

2nd Year

GOALS

Cognitive purpose: Database dissemination
Organization purpose: Network implementation

Activity

1. Questionnaire administration
2. Data collection and processing
3. Realization of graphs on TK and their innovative use
4. Organization of the information to create the database on the basis of the results of the inventory
5. Development of the database software and organization of the server
6. Organization of an e-mail conference to evaluate the working of the database
7. Organization of the same kind of workshop foreseen in the first year

The workshop will focus on:

Cognitive purpose: Work programme for the successive phases aiming:

- To study the parameters and the indicators on the loss of TK and to analyse the ways to fight against such a loss
- To choose the successful practices and to assess a system of incentives to adopt and disseminate the TKIT within the framework of traditional know-how
- To examine any methods for the protection of rights on TK that subjects, communities, disseminators and innovators of traditional techniques can implement.
- To evaluate the promotion of traditional technologies by the focal points of each country and give indications to carry out nation-wide safeguard and dissemination strategies

Operative actions:

- To assign competences and roles to the network
- To set out the successive phases concerning the widening of the process for the implementation of the global network.

VI. COSTS

Cross-reference to the work programme	Activities: Details of Eligible Costs	Unit	Number of Units	Unit Rates	TOTAL
1ST YEAR					
Involvement of the main bodies, research centres and institutions dealing with TV					
	Census-taking of the main bodies, research centres and institutions dealing with TV	1 person / 1 month	1	3000	3000
	Collaboration with bodies, research centres and institutions dealing with TV	1 person / 2 months	2	3000	12000
Organization of a WORKSHOP					
	Administrative Assistant	2 persons / 1 month	2	1500	3000
	Running costs of office and direct mailings	Provision	1	1000	1000
	Research of background material for Workshop - Senior Expert	2 persons / 1 month	2	3000	6000
	Participants travel	25 persons	25	1000	25000
	Editing and dissemination	Lump sum	1	2000	2000
	Per diem - participants (5 day Workshop)	25 persons, 5 Days	125	181	22625
	Staff Costs Field Researchers - Senior Experts	1 person / 7 days	7	1200	8400
	Consultant on topics Workshop	2 persons / 1 months	2	3000	6000
	Staff Travels	4 Persons	4	1000	4000
	English & French Interpreters	4 persons / 5 days	20	1000	40000
	Running costs - convention hall and equipment (5 days)	Lump sum	1	3000	3000
	Running costs interpreter cabins	Lump sum	1	1000	1000
	Travels Interpreters	4 persons	4	1000	4000
Organization of a stage					
	Organization of a stage - 5 days in 10 countries	2 persons / 2 month	4	3500	14000
	Staff Costs - Information Technology expert	1 person/	1	3500	3500
	Per diem (staff)	3 persons 5 days	15	181	2715
	Running costs of office and direct mailings	Provision	1	3000	3000
	Travel	3 persons/ 10 travel	30	1000	30000
	Per diem (stagers)	4 persons 5Days	20	181	3620
	Materials & Equipment - Hardware purchase	Provision	1	5000	5000

Creation of internet stations and formulation of a first hypothesis of qualification of Database nodes					
	Implementation of nodes of a dedicated network on TKIT at the institutions of Mediterranean countries	2 persons / 1 months	2	5000	10000
	Hardware Cost	Lump sum	1	5000	5000
	Creation of Internet station	Internet station	10	5000	50000
Coordination and organization					
	Projet coordinator - senior	1 person / 12 months	12	5000	60000
	projet personnel - junior	2 persons / 12 months	24	3500	84000
2ème YEAR					
Preparation and distribution of model questionnaire					
	Questionnaire administration	1 person / 1 months	1	3500	3500
	Data collection and processing Senior Expert	1 person / 1 months	1	5000	5000
	Realisation of graphs on TK and their innovative use	1 person / 1 months	1	3500	3500
	Organization of the information to create the database on the basis of the results of the inventory	1 person / 1 months	1	3500	3500
Creation of the database software and organization of the server					
	Staff Costs - Senior Experts	2 persons / 2 months	4	5000	20000
	Staff Costs - Junior Experts	2 persons / 2 months	4	3500	14000
	Staff Costs - Administrative Assistant	1 person / 2 months	2	3500	7000
	Staff Costs - Information Technology Experts	2 persons / 2 months	4	3500	14000
	Staff Costs - Translation of wed site database in French & English	1 person / 1 months	1	3500	3500
	Materials & Equipment - Software	Lump sum	1	15000	15000
	Materials & Equipment - Hardware	Lump sum	1	5000	5000
Creation of CD Rom					
	Staff Costs - Final translation of web site database in French & English	1 person / 2 months	2	5000	10000
	Software and rights	Lump sum	1	5000	5000
	Structure and compilation	1 persons / 1 months	1	5000	5000
	CD Rom	CD Rom	1000	15	15000

E-mail Conference					
	Staff- E-mail Conference preliminary information junior	1 person / 1 months	1	3500	3500
	Staff Costs -E-mail Conference Senior Expert -	1 person / 1 months	1	5000	5000
	Staff -E-mail Conference Senior Information Expert	1 person / 1 months	1	5000	5000
	Staff -E-mail Conference secretary junior	1 person / 1 months	1	3500	3500
Organization of a WORKSHOP -					
	Administrative Assistant	2 persons / 1 month	2	3500	7000
	Running costs of office and direct mailings	Provision	1	3000	3000
	Research of background material for Workshop Senior Expert	2 persons / 1 month	2	5000	10000
	Participants Travels	20 persons	20	1000	20000
	Per diem - participants (5 day Workshop)	20 persons/ 5 days	100	183	18300
	Staff Costs Field Researchers - Senior Experts	1 person / 7 days	7	1250	8750
	Consultant on topics Workshop	6 persons / 1 months	6	5000	30000
	Staff travel	6 persons	6	1000	6000
	English & French Interpreters	4 persons / 5 days	20	2000	40000
	Running costs - convention hall and equipment (5 days)	Lump sum	1	1000	1000
	Running costs interpreter cabins	Lump sum	1	5000	5000
	Travels Interpreters	4 persons	4	1000	4000
	Editing and dissemination	Lump sum	1	2500	2500
Coordination and organization					
	Projet coordinator - senior	1 person / 12 months	12	5000	60000
	Projet personnel - junior	2 persons / 12 months	24	3500	84000
SUBTOTAL					88300
	General costs (10%)				88300
	Administrative cost (13%)				114790
TOTAL					1086090

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